(c) and (d) The system would cost about Rs. 125 crores. India will bear this cost. The work has been initiated. Different components would be achieved with passage of time and the system will be fully operational by September, 2007.

Tsunami warning sensors in Indian Ocean

386. SHRI MANOJ BHATACHARYA: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to install warning sensors deep in the Indian Ocean and join the network of twenty six countries that monitors Tsunami waves;

(b) if so, the details thereof including their costs and time required for thie installation; and

(c) the reasons for India not joining the network earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. it is proposed to set up a Tsunami and storm surges warning system in the Indian Ocean. For forecasting of Tsunami waves a network of Deep Ocean Earthquake Assessment and Reporting Sensors (DART) are proposed to be installed at appropriate locations. Pacific Warning System shared by twenty six countries exists for forecasting Tsunamigenic waves generated primarily in the Pacific Ocean. The Pacific Ocean is prone to Tsunami wave frequently. India is not a part of the Pacific Warning System.

(b) The estimated cost of setting up a Tsunami warning system, along with software, in about two and half years in Rs. 125 crores.

(c) Merely joining Pacific Warning System will not help India because for forecasting of tsunami waves in the Indian Ocean, we need to put in place sensors and related systems in the Indian Ocean.

Japanese Help for Tsunami Warning system

†387. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Japan has offered to extend help in setting up Tsunami early warning system;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the estimated cost of setting up Tsunami early warning system;

(d) whether any other country has also offered to extend help in setting up Tsunami early warning system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when a decision would be take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) There is no proposal received from Japan for setting up Tsunami warning system.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Setting up of the proposed 'Tsunami and storm surges warning system' in the Indian Ocean by India, is estimated to cost Rs. 125 crores.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Website for NRIs

388. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a website has been launched for interactive exchanges with NRIs abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum and level of response received from NRIs; and

(d) whether Government would conduct any survey of NRIs abroad to identify people who want to play a role in national development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The website is under development.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.